

WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 8 , 2006

In Attendance:

Paul Barthel; Vice-Chairman; Highway Commissioner Representative
Mr. John Blaszak; Education Representative
Sergeant Nate Clarke; Wisconsin State Patrol
Ms. Mitzi Dobersek; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative
Ms. Jennifer Enright-Ford, RN, Wisconsin Department Of Transportation
Mr. Bill Glauber; Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel
Ms. Susie Just; PARC Task Force
Mr. Thomas Knoop; Bureau of Transportation Safety
Specialist Steven Kraus; City of Waukesha Police Department Representative
Lieutenant Larry LaFavor; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator
Detective Ron Lagosh; City of Brookfield Police Department
Trooper Ted Meagher; Wisconsin State Patrol
Sergeant Brian Ripplinger; City of Pewaukee Police Department Representative
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Larry LaFavor at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Specialist Steven Kraus, from the City of Waukesha Police Department, made a motion to approve the minutes, and Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT

Mr. Thomas Knoop was introduced as the new Bureau of Transportation Safety representative who is replacing Mr. Thomas Loeffler.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT CONTINUED

Mr. Thomas Knoop passed out a handout of the Bureau Of Transportation Safety Report from the first quarter of 2006 consisting of the following reports:

- Introduction
- Fatality Report as of 02-06-06 which states Waukesha County had 34 fatalities in 2005. The five-year average for Waukesha County was 27. There were 59 crashes statewide, and 60 fatalities statewide. The 60 fatalities consisted of 35 drivers, 19 passengers, 3 pedestrians, and 3 unknown. At this same time in 2005 there were 47 crashes statewide and 56 fatalities. The five-year average was 57 crashes statewide and 63 fatalities statewide.
- Child Booster Seat Bill #AB614 effective 06-01-06 requiring children from ages 4 up to 8 be properly restrained in booster seats instead of just a safety belt. Booster seats will not be required if the child weighs more than 80 pounds, or is taller than 4 feet 9 inches, because a child of this size will fit securely in a safety belt.
- Laws of the month:
 - December – “Drunken driving can ruin your holidays”
 - January – “Driving too fast for conditions causes wintertime crashes”
 - February – “There are two types of tailgating and one of them is dangerous”

Vice-Chairman Paul Barthel asked if there is any legislation on Red Light Running. Thomas Knoop stated in Wisconsin a ticket can not be written based on registration, it must be based on the driver.

JENNIFER ENRIGHT-FORD, RN-DOT: “ELDER DRIVING”

Jennifer Enright-Ford is a nurse consultant for the Department Of Motor Vehicles and deals with health impaired driver issues and medical outreach to the community. She stated drivers must be stable and reliable, or their driver's license will be cancelled. It is based on each case, person by person. There is no general rule of age for cancellation. There is no mandatory reporting in Wisconsin, so most of the information is from law enforcement. The number one health problem in Wisconsin is diabetes. It is epidemic in the state. There have been possibly one million undiagnosed cases in Wisconsin. The State of Wisconsin has one of the lowest vision standards in the United States for a Class D license. New vision testing standards have gone before legislation, but have not passed as of yet. Shorter periods of hospital stays are resulting in more sick/ill people driving on the highways. Law Enforcement Behavioral Reports are very important towards determining whether or not an older person is able to drive. Elderly citizens spend triple the amount of time with law enforcement officers than with their own doctors. If it is determined that an elderly person's license should be cancelled, the most expedient route to take would be through their physician. This can usually be accomplished in one day. Family members are also a great help. Most people start to lose their night vision at the age of 40. People must have the ability to drive in order to be safe behind the wheel. Jennifer Enright-Ford had several handouts, including “Aging, Health, and Driving 2006”; “At The Crossroads – A guide to Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, and driving”; and “We need to talk.... – Family conversations with older drivers” by AARP.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

■ City of Brookfield

Detective Ron Lagosh, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, stated he is a Drug Recognition Expert trainer and trains teachers as well as students. He stated it is easier to deal with students than it is adults when they are on the road. More and more drivers are on prescription medications due to shorter hospital stays. Drug Recognition Experts obtain blood pressures and pulses, and are usually the first to see health problems with the elderly. There are 102 Drug Recognition Experts in the State of Wisconsin. Any school or law enforcement department may request help in mutual aid. Drug Recognition Experts are willing to travel, if necessary, to be of help.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

➡ Sergeant Brian Ripplinger reported there was one fatality for the City of Pewaukee

● Date of Accident: 12-10-05

Location: Eastbound STH 16, 1/2 mile west of CTH KF

This single vehicle roll-over accident involved a 35-year-old female in which the Ford pick-up truck left the roadway and came to rest partially submerged in a marshy area. The victim possibly fell asleep.

➡ Chairman Larry LaFavor reported that the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department had one fatality, as follows:

● Date of Accident: 02-07-06

Location: STH 18 at Road DT, Town of Delafield

The driver of a Chevrolet Malibu either did not stop or failed to yield to an eastbound Isuzu after merging onto Highway 18 from Road DT. The operator of the Isuzu was unable to safely stop the vehicle given the intrusion of the Chevrolet into the path of the Isuzu. The female driver of the Isuzu had wrist pain, a sore neck, and difficulty breathing. She was traveling with her infant, who did not appear to have any injuries other than a bloody nose. The 79-year-old female driver of the Malibu sustained injuries due to the impact of the collision, and was pronounced deceased at the scene by Flight For Life.

NEW BUSINESS

Sergeant Mark Tushaus, of the City of Brookfield Police Department, stated to Mitzi Dobersek, the Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative, that there have been many accidents, mostly rear-end accidents, at the I-94 and Moorland Road off-ramp. He was asking if vehicles could possibly go northbound from the far right lane and if the right turn could be made exclusively the right lane, so vehicles would not have to stop at the bottom of the ramp.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Vice-Chairman Paul Barthel stated he is working on the budget for next year for safety projects and if anyone is aware of any locations that need improvement, to let him know.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Susie Just, from PARC Task Force, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Thomas Knoop of the Bureau of Transportation Safety. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

(MINUTES APPROVED ON 05-10-06)